



Three Lincoln Businesses Win Environmental Awards for Pollution Prevention

Information provided by Angela Maruhn and Harry Heafer

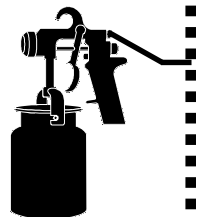
At an awards ceremony held on April 23 at Bryan Memorial Hospital's Plaza Conference Center, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and Lincoln Public Works and Utilities Department handed out the 1998 Lincoln-Lancaster County Environmental Awards. These awards recognize the successes of local businesses in a number of environmental areas. Three area businesses won awards in the pollution prevention area: Parker Hannifin, Voss Lighting, and Ransomes Textron (formerly Cushman).

Parker Hannifin, a manufacturer of hydraulic quick couplings for tractors, installed a centrifuge on the central coolant system that serves the machine lathes. Previously, fabric filters were used, and the metal shavings remained in the fabric. The shavings had to be landfilled along with thousands of pounds of filters. The centrifuge allows Parker Hannifin to remove the shavings from the oil and recycle the shavings. This system also produces a cleaner oil for reuse by the lathes. Using the centrifuge, Parker Hannifin enjoyed a significant savings in the first year; the centrifuge paid for itself almost immediately.

Voss Lighting, a supplier of specialized replacement lighting products, educates its customers about mercury toxicity in fluorescent lighting, PCBs in fluorescent lighting ballasts, and energy-efficient lighting. The company has demonstrated how proper lighting purchases can save money and reduce the impact on the environment. Promoting the use of the Phillips Lighting Manufacturing Company's new low-mercury fluorescent lamp—the ALTO bulb—Voss has helped consumers reduce their personal health risks and created a safer environment for everyone. The ALTO lamp has 70% less mercury than traditional fluorescent bulbs. This new bulb meets EPA guidelines for disposal as a nonhazardous waste, unlike standard four-foot fluorescent bulbs.



Ransomes Textron has reduced the company's hazardous air pollutant emissions by 91% (24 tons per year). It accomplished this feat by switching from a traditional solvent-based painting process. Ransomes Textron now uses a safer, less toxic powder-coating system. The powder is held in place electrostatically and baked on. In addition, some parts are now painted using an air-dry water-based paint. In addition, Ransomes Textron gives its scrap metal to local high schools and Southeast Community College for use in their welding programs. Using its own wastewater treatment facility, Ransomes Textron reduced its impact on Lincoln's public wastewater treatment plant.



The P 2 Corner

Environmental Goals Strategy

Region 7 of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), headquartered in Kansas City, Kansas, recently announced the Environmental Goals Strategy. This strategy will strengthen and enhance the services offered through the Partners for the Environment effort.* Five programs will be the focus of the Environmental Goals Strategy:

Climate Wise, Common Sense Initiative, Energy Star, Waste Minimization, and WasteWi\$e.

The Strategy brings several agencies together to provide nonregulatory, voluntary waste reduction and pollution prevention assistance to local businesses. Among these agencies are: Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD), Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), Waste Cap of

Lincoln, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), and Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC).

These agencies have identified some key goals to help businesses achieve success and cut waste and reduce pollution. First, any options suggested must be economically feasible to the company. The ideal suggestion will save the business money. Second, the agencies will assist the businesses to go beyond compliance with environmental regulations. Third, the agencies will provide compliance assistance as necessary.

For more information about this program, call the US EPA (see below) or the LLCHD (441-8644).

* *A Catalogue of the Agency's Partnership Programs* (EPA 100-B-97-003) is available from the US EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. You can call (202) 260-7423 or visit the web site at <http://www.epa.gov/partners>.



ABCs of Pollution Prevention for Small Businesses

- A**void chlorinated organic solvents, cyanide compounds, and petroleum-based compounds when water-based substitutes exist
- B**uy drainboards and drip pans to enhance drip reuse in process baths
- C**hoose closed-loop (i.e., fully enclosed) recycling designs to reduce wastes and worker exposures
- D**ecrease the frequency of painting and paint removal to minimal levels
- E**nsure a neat work environment to prevent spills of toxic chemicals
- F**oster a regular program of pollution prevention planning and auditing
- G**ive employees incentives to find new pollution prevention ideas
- H**ave and use covers for all containers holding fluids that evaporate
- I**nstruct employees in pollution prevention
- J**ust use storage tanks with secondary containment (i.e., double-walled tanks and a barrier around loading/unloading areas)
- K**eep track of toxic chemical inventories to ensure fewer containers on-site, thus minimizing spills, spoilage, and evaporation
- L**abel containers to prevent mistakes that could result in wastes requiring disposal
- M**onitor and maintain the appropriate temperature for heated materials
- N**ever allow leaks to persist
- O**nly use sprays when absolutely necessary, since they waste chemicals through dispersion (e.g., paint overspray)
- P**reclean parts with physical methods (e.g., squeegees, rags,) before using solvents
- Q**uit disposing of baths without checking bath quality, and restore quality through the use of non-toxic additives
- R**eformulate or redesign products so fewer toxic chemicals are used in production processes
- S**elect continuous rather than batch processes whenever possible, to avoid start-up wastes
- T**ry redesigning processes so they require fewer toxic chemicals
- U**se machines where toxicity concerns exist and where process precision would reduce wastes significantly (e.g., paint spraying)
- V**arnish and other coatings that are not essential should be avoided
- W**ash parts only when absolutely necessary
- X**erox double-sided as often as possible
- Y**ield maximization is one goal, *and*
- Z**ero waste is the other goal.



By Lois Epstein, Environmental Defense Fund

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<http://interlinc.ci.lincoln.ne.us/InterLinc/city/health/environ/pollu/index.htm>

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For more information or for P2 technical assistance, call 441-8040.